

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 01373 311421Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 /029 W
-----311532Z 123160 /44

R 311031Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0876
IFNO RUFHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 860
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1373

ROME FOR RCAA

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR, IN
SUBJ: CIVAIR: AIRBUS ECONOMICS/RELIABILITY

REF: STATE 005609

1. CONSULATES GENERAL BOMBAY AND CALUCTTA HAVE OBTAINED
FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON AIRBUS OPERATIONS. EMBASSY
NEW DELHI WOULD PREFER NOT TO CONTACT INDIAN AIRLINES
(IA) AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF PENDING DECISION AND
UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING PURCHASE OF BOEING 737S. AT
APPROPRIATE TIME, AFTER DECISION HAS BEEN MADE, WE CAN
CONTACT IA HEADQUARTERS HERE REGARDING AIRBUS OPERATIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO TWO AMERICANS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN AVIATION
CIRCLES IN BOMBAY, THE AIRBUS IS CARRYING AN AVERAGE
OF 260 PASSENGERS ON EVERY FLIGHT FROM BOMBAY. IT HAS
HAD NO MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS TO DATE ALTHOUGH ONE
OF CONTACTS SAYS THAT THE FIRST AIRBUS DID HAVE SOME
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 01373 311421Z

PROBLEMS WITH ITS TIRES. THESE HAVE SINCE BEEN REPLACED.
PASSENGER REACTION TO THE AIRBUS HAS BEEN VERY FAVORABLE.
THE SPACIOUSNESS OF THE AIRCRAFT, ITS SEATING AND IN
PARTICULAR THE CONVENIENCE OF STORING LUGGAGE OVERHEAD
IS APPRECIATED BY THE PUBLIC. WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF
THE AIRBUS IA IS NOW OPERATING MORNING AND EVENING SER-
VICES FROM BOMBAY TO DELHI AND RETURN AND ONCE A DAY

SERVICE EACH FROM BOMBA TO CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY TO MADRAS AND RETURN WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF RELIABILITY AND ON-SCHEDULE SERVICE. IA OFFICIALS HAVE HIGH PRAISE FOR THE MANUFACTURER SUPPORT FROM AIRBUS INDUSTRIES. SIX AIRBUS INDUSTRIES' TECHNICIANS ARE CURRENTLY IN BOMBAY. ITS TECHNICAL SUPPORT IS CONSIDERED EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF THE US MANUFACTURERS, WHILE THE SUPPLYING OF SPARE PARTS IS EVEN BETTER. THESE HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS FROM EUROPE, WHERE IT OFTEN TAKES 4 TO 5 WEEKS FOR SIMILAR ITEMS FROM US SUPPLIERS. THE AIR-BUSES HAVE FLOWN LESS THAN 500 HOURS EACH. BOTH AMERICAN SOURCES POINTED OUT THAT UNTIL THE AIRBUS HAS ACCUMULATED SOME 2000 AIR HOURS ON ITS ENGINES AND AIR FRAMES IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW RELIABLE OPERATIONS WILL BE IN INDIA. THE AIRBUS HOWEVER APPEARS TO BE OFF TO A GOOD START WITH IA, WHICH HAS ASKED THE GOI TO TAKE UP ITS OPTION OF PURCHASING A FOURTH AIRBUS.

3. ACCORDING TO HEAD OF IA IN EASTERN REGIN, AIRBUS IS CARRYING BETTER THAN 240 PASSENGERS ON EVERY FLIGHT FROM CALCUTTA. IT HAS PRESENTED NO MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS, AND PASSENGERS ARE HAPPY WITH AIRCRAFT BECAUSE THEY CAN CARRY ON MORE BAGGAGE.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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